

## Queen Elizabeth II - Sterling Machins.

The 'swinging sixties' will long be remembered for a variety of reasons, but for many G.B. philatelists it can mean only one thing - the introduction of the Queen Elizabeth 'Machin' series of postage stamps. The design, based on a plaster cast of the Queen's head in profile by Arnold Machin, was both simple and elegant, and in stark contrast to the cluttered 'Wildings' the new series of stamps would progressively replace.

The Machin bust of Queen Elizabeth II  
is probably the most reproduced  
work of art in the world!



The Perfin Society uses code letters for specific postage stamp issues, and the Sterling Machins have been allocated the code letter 'V'. These code letters are used as shorthand in the *New Illustrated Catalogue of G.B. Perfins*, and since publication of the first section in 1994, individual stamp details for each issue have been recorded against each known G.B. Perfin. Although the G.B. catalogue will not be 'complete' until **2016**, now seems a good time to report on this issue, along with an analysis of the stamps and a list of the Perfins involved.

The low-value postage stamps were printed in photogravure on un-watermarked paper by Harrison & Sons in panes of 240 stamps arranged in twenty rows of twelve stamps.

### **Small size, definitive issue** - 14 stamps, 17 including variations.

- 5 June **1967** - 4d Sepia, 1/- Bluish-violet, 1/9d Orange & Black.
- 8 August **1967** - 3d Violet, 9d Myrtle-green, 1/6d Greenish-blue.
- 5 February **1968** - ½d Orange-brown, 1d Light olive, 2d (Type I), 6d Reddish-purple.
- 1 July **1968** - 5d Royal Blue, 7d Emerald, 8d Vermilion, 10d Drab.
- 6 January **1969** - 4d Vermilion, 8d Turquoise-blue.
- Early **1969** - 2d (Type II).

The high value postage stamps, which replaced the Wilding 'Castles', were recess-printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co Ltd on un-watermarked paper in sheets of four panes (arranged 2x2), each pane consisting of 40 stamps (arranged 8x5).

### **Large size, high values issue** - 4 stamps.

- 5 March **1969** - 2/6d Brown, 5/- Crimson-lake, 10/- Ultramarine, £1 Black.

In turn, these high value stamps were replaced by 'decimal' versions on the 17<sup>th</sup> June **1970** for the 10p, 20p, and 50p denominations, and the 6<sup>th</sup> December **1972** for the *re-drawn* £1.

Decimalization ('D-day') was on the 15<sup>th</sup> February **1971**, and saw thirteen definitive sized 'Decimal' Machins issued - ½p, 1p, 1½p, 2p, 2½p, 3p, 3½p, 4p, 5p, 6p, 7½p, 9p, and 10p.

The ½p coin was de-monitized in December 1984.

The figure below each stamp is the number of different G.B. Perfin dies known on the stamp.



41 dies



417 dies



290 dies T1



342 dies T2



535 dies



683 dies



614 dies



605 dies



438 dies



34 dies



9 dies



29 dies



129 dies



27 dies



317 dies



145 dies



22 dies



88 dies



53 dies



20 dies



20 dies

The following stamps replaced the high value Sterling Machins illustrated above. They form part of the Perfin Society issue code 'W', and are shown here *for reference only*.



98 dies



152 dies



77 dies



20 dies

The same basic information is presented below in tabular form. Please note that the categories involving a question mark are the result of incomplete recording in the late 1980's and early 1990's of either colour or type. It is hoped that 'in the fullness of time' these will all be resolved and assigned to their correct category.

TOTALS for issue 'V'				
	DD		DDF	
Overall >	877		4,908	
	41	½d		
	417	1d		
	470	2d		
			2d ??	42
			2d Type 1	290
			2d Type 2	342
	535	3d		
	739	4d		
			4d ??	2
			4d sepia	683
			4d verm	614
	605	5d		
	438	6d		
	34	7d		
	36	8d		
			8d ??	4
			8d vermilion	9
			8d turquoise	29
	129	9d		
	27	10d		
	317	1/-		
	145	1/6d		
	22	1/9d		
	88	2/6d	SG787	
	53	5/-	SG788	
	20	10/-	SG789	
	20	£1	SG790	
For reference only! These are classed as issue 'W'.				
	DD		DDF	
Overall >	190		347	
	98	10p	SG829	
	152	20p	SG830	
	77	50p	SG831	
	20	£1	SG831a	

The above summary lists *all known G.B. Perfin dies* found on the *Sterling Machin issue* - correct to *1<sup>st</sup> July 2019*.